NAVY RESERVE MEDICINE

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Finance.....2
Education & Training.....3
IT.....3
IRT.....3
Manpower/Mobilization...4

Navy Medical Reserve Spotlight: LCDR Kristin Leone, NC, USN, Advocate for Homeless Women Veterans

By André Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

It is estimated that between 32,000 and 37,000 women veterans are homeless or living below the poverty line.

Seventy percent of homeless veterans are single mothers.

And women veterans are twice as likely to become homeless than women who have never served in the military.

For Navy Reserve Nurse Lt. Cmdr. Kristin Leone the plight of homeless women veterans is a public health issue requiring action. In recent years, Leone has met with civic groups, schools, elected officials and military leadership to bring greater attention to this cause and help curb the growing numbers.

Lt. Cmdr. Leone entered the Navy in 2010 after 12-years as a civilian nurse in New Jersey. With a family history that included a grandfather who served aboard the destroyer USS Stockton in World War II and an uncle who was an Air Force flight surgeon, there was always an interest to "do her part" and serve but, as she jokes, her "overprotective Italian family talked her out of it" after college.

"I always liked the idea of being able to serve my country beyond the boundaries of what I would do as a civilian nurse," said Leone. "I love that I have additional nursing and leadership skills that I've earned. In the Navy, you learn to adapt and overcome and it has made me a better nurse and a better person."

Leone has made the most of her time in the Navy and has always been eager for new opportunities and challenges.

In 2013, she represented the Navy on the Armed Forces Tae Kwon Do team. Two years later she volunteered for deployment to the NATO Role III Multinational Medical Center in Kandahar, Afghanistan. As Leone puts it, these new experiences forced her to "lean into the fear" and move beyond her comfort zone.

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(continued from page 1)

And in 2020, Leone "leaned in" again when a friend suggested she compete in the Ms. Veterans America pageant.

Ms. Veterans America is an annual competition started in 2012 by the non-profit organization Final Salute. Its mission is two-fold: to bring awareness to the issue of homeless women veterans and showcase military "women behind the uniform." Contestants undergo interviews about important issues affecting military women and compete in a talent portion. Pageant proceeds goes to housing for homeless women veterans and their children.

"Part of the competition is to advocate for homeless female veterans," Leone related. "And the more research I did the more I found that this is a huge problem across the country."

Leone reached the semi-finals (top 25) that year. In wake of the competition the cause of homeless women veterans became her "passion project."

"I took it upon myself to continue the fight and continue the conversation with schools, with women and veteran organizations," said Leone.

The leading causes of homelessness among women veterans include lack of affordable housing, unemployment, mental illness, poverty, and domestic violence. As Leone explained, family issues and medical discharges leading to abrupt ends to military careers as well as not having a plan for post-military life can also factor into homelessness. "So, if they're not prepared and they don't know where the resources are, it can set them up for failure, which, in my mind, is one of the reasons why we need to be talking about this issue."

A key part of tackling the problem is awareness and Leone believes it is vital that there are conversations with military personnel about transitioning out of the service and the resources available to them. Among the ideas Leone has championed include incorporating these conversations as part of the mandatory General Military Training (GMT).

In recent years, her advocacy has yielded unexpected platforms for bringing attention to the cause.

South Jersey Magazine named her one of the top twelve "Super Women of 2020" who have made important contributions to the local community. That same year she was chosen as the grand marshal of the Philadelphia Veteran's Day Parade and in 2021 was the co-grand marshal of the parade. In 2021, Leone became the host and producer of "Breaking Barriers" a television talk show to "educate, motivate and inspire."

Leone takes immense pride in the opportunities the Navy has afforded her and the career experiences that have proved so vital. And for service members as well as those considering military careers she has one piece of advice: "Don't be afraid to take on a new role that may be outside your comfort zone because you have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

Sources:
Leone, Kristin (Interview conducted by A.B. Sobocinski on January 7, 2022).
Leone, Kristin. The Plight of Homeless Veterans (Presentation). June 2021.

LCDR Leone drills with NR OCS Quantico Medical.

Finance

Jim Clearwood

All hands should have an AT scheduled and in NROWS (save and route) not later than 31 January. (Orders can be executed later in the year, but should be planned NOW.) Critical funding is tied to this deadline…
DON'T BE THE REASON WE MISS OUT ON ESSENTIAL TRAINING DOLLARS!
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RC MSC Officers of the Year

Congratulations to the following Medical Service Corps Officers selected for Officer of the Year:

HCA Community: LCDR Melanie Muscar, MEDLOG/POMI (currently on Recall to NMRTC Bethesda)
HCS Community: LCDR Jacob Edwards, EHO
HCC Community: LCDR Laridee Herding, PT

As stated by RDML Weber and RDML Moritz, "this recognition is a testament to your specialty expertise, professional acumen, impressive leadership, and inspiration contributions to your specific mission and those around you. As Navy Medicine evolves, we continue to gain strength and agility in each specialty across NMRTCs, labs, and operational and headquarter units. Your specific contributions have directly added to this strength and you have clearly expanded the Power of Naval Medicine around the globe."

Congratulations to these three members on this outstanding accomplishment!

NR NMFSC Professional Development Video Series

CAPT Janet Wessels

Navy Reserve Naval Medical Forces Support Command's (NR NMFSC) Professional Development team has created a library of video recordings of professional training topics, as well as recordings of senior military medical leaders giving their pearls of wisdom.

The recordings are hosted on milSuite, and the library continues to expand. Please see the current list below which will be updated as videos are added. The most recently recorded videos will be listed at the top of each list.

Available topics include:

- **Building Teams**, CDR Anthony Peterson
- **Emotional Intelligence**, CDR Anthony Peterson
- **Crucial Conversations Part I**, CAPT Janet Wessels
- **Crucial Conversations Part II**, CAPT Janet Wessels
- **Resilience in the Operational Environment Part I**, CAPT Janet Wessels
- **Resilience in the Operational Environment Part II**, CAPT Janet Wessels

In addition, videos on leadership pearls by RDML (ret.) Louis Tripoli, CAPT (ret.) Elaine Walker, CAPT (ret.) Thomas Patton, Lt Gen (ret.) Thomas Travis, RDML (ret.) Victor Hall, RADM (ret.) Christina Alvarado, Brig Gen (ret.) Jeannine Ryder, and HMCM (ret.) Mark Durland are also available.

Education & Training

LT Marline Duncan
HMC Steven Hursh

- Over the next few months, our BUMED M10 Education and Training Max.gov website will be updated to reflect current training courses with a user-friendly and streamlined interface. Additionally, all applicable information and material will be updated to ensure Command Training Officers (CTO) and members have the tools and resources to be successful when inquiring into ADT-CME funded courses.

- PLAN, PLAN, PLAN!! We are now in our 2nd quarter of the Fiscal Year 2022 and we must complete Annual Training expectations. Members should work with their Training Officers and RPDs to plan and execute Annual Training as soon as possible. Remember to be flexible and be aware of the COVID-19 travel restrictions when setting up your training with your Gaining Command.

- All FY 2022 ADT-CME requests for funding are routed to BUMED M10 via the Command Training Officers to ensure the course requested for the Sailor has the pre-requisites and quota as applicable – a complete form is a must. This form can be found on our Max.gov website.

- M10 is pleased to announce HMC Steven Hursh joined Education and Training this month! HMC Hursh will be the Education and Training Lead Chief Petty Officer, and is excited to support your training needs. As always, M10 Training stands by to help you succeed. Don't hesitate to contact us via email for any questions or needs at: usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.bumed--m10-education-training@mail.mil

Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program

LCDR Shillady

The IRT Program is preparing for an increase in operational tempo starting this month. Lead planners from the Navy Reserve Medicine units participating in the FY22 IRT exercises are fully engaged in weekly and bi-weekly telcons hosted with our fellow Services and the community partners onsite, where possible. Planning meetings resumed this month with NMRTC Camp Lejeune having their Initial Planning Meeting (IPM) for Valley Healthcare last week. The team from NMRTC Portsmouth is proudly representing the Navy Reserve by leading the Appalachian Cares Mission as their IPM kicks off next week. We are then full speed ahead with virtual plans for Birchwood Cares and Tropic Care Mid Planning Meetings (MPM) in February. If you haven't yet applied for an IRT, please do so!

NMRTC Corpus Christi - Birchwood Cares IRT, Birchwood, TN - June 2-16
NMRTC Camp Pendleton - Tropic Care IRT, Kuaui, HI - June 9-24
NMRTC Camp Lejeuene
- Valley Healthcare IRT, Columbus, GA - 1-15 August NMRTC Bethesda
- Valley Healthcare IRT, Columbus, GA - 1-15 August NMRTC Portsmouth - Appalachian Care IRT, Wise, VA - 12-26 August
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IT Corner

HM1 El Gbouri

Preparing for the NRM Leadership Symposium

As the Navy Reserve has transitioned to FlankSpeed, we all need to "relearn" how to use Microsoft Teams, as many meetings continue to be in a virtual format. Here are some frequently asked questions regarding virtual meetings and their answers:

- Would I need to have access to MS Teams to access the meetings links? No, the meetings are accessible via the links provided regardless of your account. You can access MS Teams via your web browser and check in as a guest. Use the browser when asked, not the MS Teams installed client. This is important!!!
- What if I want to join the meeting from my MS Teams application in my computer? The only way you can join from the application in your computer and use your CAC profile is via direct invite from meeting organizers or via forwarded direct invites. If one of you team members was invited, he or she can send you that invite and you can join in that way.
- What if I have problems accessing MS Teams? This is the main reason we advise logging in as guest through a browser, but if you want to fix accessibility issues to MS Teams we suggest referring to the NRM August 2021 Newsletter IT Corner, available on Max.gov. (To access Max.gov, you will need to create a quick account. This is a few seconds process.)
- Can I chat via the text chat boxes when in the meeting? Not as a guest - only if you were invited to join the meeting via direct invite or forwarded invite.
- Can I talk during the meeting? We advise to request permission to talk by raising your hand (this is the small yellow hand icon in MS Teams) the presenter will grant you permission. Please avoid interruptions and abide by the meetings etiquettes, as we have now learned and been so accustomed to (so mute unless you are talking).
- How about the camera? Cameras should not be on unless you are a presenter. And if you are on camera, you should be in the proper military uniform. Also avoid distractions, such as eating, talking and playing with your animals, or conferencing from a noisy space. For details, check out the IT corner section in the NRM October newsletter.

Sources:
BUMED M10 Max.gov Website: https://go.usa.gov/xd5QS
NRM Conference Max.gov Website: https://go.usa.gov/xtrrg
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Manpower

LT Palomino/HMC Hursh

Upcoming Deadlines
FY 22 JO APPLY & MNA Q2:

- **30 DEC 21 - 31 JAN 22** Q2 Junior Officer and Enlisted Application phase.
- **4 FEB – 9 FEB 22** COs and OICs ranking and recommendation phase. Please take this opportunity to rank candidates. Recommendations should be based on billet RFAS code and requirements. CRNFC weighs heavily on Command recommendations. Use MNA and RFMT.

APPLY_PBA deadline for Officers without Tenure: 15 February, 2022
FINAL PBA deadline for Officers in VTU status: 17 June, 2022

APPLY REMINDER:
Officers who were awarded an APPLY billet will receive orders with a Projected Rotation Date (PRD) of 31JAN24, or 31JAN25 in accordance with community specific guidance located in COMNAVRESFORNOTE 5400, section 3.2.

POST-BOARD ASSIGNMENTS:
For PBA applications, Officers should contact their respective RAOs.

Mobilizations

LT Womack

GTMO 6/3/2022
General Duty Corpsman (HMC)
OR Tech (L23A)
Lab Tech (L31A)
PT Tech (L20A)
ICU Nurse
Psychiatrist

Kuwait (6/3/2022
Patient Movement NCO (HM1)

CENTCOM AOR 6/10/2022
Respiratory Tech (L32A)

GTMO 7/1/2022
General Duty Corpsman (ten available openings)
Pharmacist
General Dentist
Family Nurse Practitioner

GTMO 9/30/2022
Medical Logistics Administration